Lead with Humility: 12 Leadership Lessons from Pope Francis Jeffrey Krames (2014)

Book's Argument: He has achieved the remarkable: breathed life into an aging institution, reinvigorated a global base, and created real hope for the future. How did a man who spent his life laboring in slums far from the Vatican manage to do this and so quickly? The answer lies in his humility - and the simple principles that spring from it. Lead with Humility explores 12 of these principles and shows how leaders and managers can adapt them for the workplace to achieve results. The principles include:

- Lead with humility
- Smell like your flock
- Who am I to judge
- Don't change reinvent
- Make inclusion a top priority
- Avoid insularity
- Choose pragmatism over ideology
- Employ the optics of decision making
- Run your organization like a field hospital
- Live on the frontier
- Confront adversity head-on
- Pay attention to noncustomers

Key Takeaways: Lead with Humility reveals the power of Pope Francis' methods and helps anyone lead with grace and greater authenticity.

Best Quote: "How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points?" – Pope Francis

"[a] religious who recognizes himself as weak and a sinner does not negate the witness he is called to give, rather he reinforces it, and this is good for everyone." – Pope Francis

Why It's Important: Pope Francis shows us where the world has gone wrong and how our values have gone off the rails. Even the choice of his name – inspired by St. Francis of Assisi (patron saint of animals and ecology) – was meant to signal to the world that he would focus on society's poor, as well as on the sickest and weakest among us. Utter humility and humanity matter.

